

records of Slade & Farrar should not be interpreted as a linear extension of its range from its original Cornish stronghold.

Calamatropha paludella (Hb.) as reported by Slade (*Ent. Rec.* **111**: 210), had an excellent year in 1999. An earlier Somerset record though, is that of a specimen captured by Alan Bone in July 1996 at the Keynsham chocolate factory site (grid reference ST6 569) and sent to Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery for confirmation. The specimen was subsequently exhibited at the annual exhibition of the British Entomological & Natural History Society along with other interesting captures by members of the Group (*Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.* **12**:152-153). During 1999, *C. paludella* was also taken by Rick Andrews, Dave Gibbs, Rupert Higgins, John Martin and Andy Pym on a mothing night at Weston Moor Nature Reserve in the Gordano Valley (ST 4473) on 7 July. Subsequently, John Martin also recorded the species in his garden in Pilning, South Gloucestershire (ST 5584) and another was captured on 15 July 1999 in Gwent, at grid reference ST 3485, by Kevin Dupe.

Finally *Monochroa palustrella* Douglas has been recorded on three other occasions in vice-county 6 – on 20 August 1986 at Sand Point (ST 3266) by Martin Evans, 22 September 1995 at a field meeting of the Bristol Group at the Gordano National Nature Reserve (ST4473) and on Weston Moor Nature Reserve (ST 4473) by Dave Gibbs on 7 July 1999.

The Bristol Group is currently working on a publication of the moths of the region which will cover both macros and micros. Records from the former county of Avon would be very gratefully received. My thanks to the members of the Group for permission to quote their records.– RAY BARNETT, City Museum & Art Gallery, Queen's Road, Bristol BS8 1RL.

***Symphorobius klapaleki* Zeleny (Neur.: Hemerobiidae): a second British record – from South Essex**

On 15 June 1999 at about 5pm, whilst undertaking an insect survey of Larks wood, South Essex (Vice-county 18 at grid reference TQ 382926), I swept a brown lacewing which keyed out as *Symphorobius pellucidus* in Colin Plant's AIDGAP key (1997), except that it had pale antennal scapes and pedicels, a character taking it to *S. klapaleki*, as described in the footnote which also suggested that this species is possibly present in Britain. The specimen was duly passed to Colin Plant who confirmed that this was indeed an example of *S. klapaleki*.

Since the publication of Colin's key, *S. klapaleki* has indeed been added to the British list – from Silwood Park, Berkshire (Whittington, 1998: *Ent. Rec.* **110**: 288 - 289), reared from a pupa attached to a dead oak twig in April 1994 and so the present example is the second British record. Larks Wood is situated within one kilometre of Epping Forest and is a remnant of the ancient forest, although in former times it was managed as an oak and hornbeam coppice, rather than with pollards. It has a strong saproxylic beetle fauna, centred on a handful of sickly beeches and a few of the oak trees. I am not able to say whether the specimen of *S. klapaleki* was associated with dead wood in any way, but it is likely to have been swept from low

branches rather than herbage as the coppicing has been long-neglected, leading to excessive shade as far as ground flora is concerned over much of the wood. To find *S. klapeleki* in Essex under the above circumstances supports the notion that it is an overlooked native species. As more records become available, its habits and habitat associations should become deducible.

My thanks are given to Colin Plant for checking and identifying my lacewings and Nick Evans, London Borough of Waltham Forest ecologist for commissioning the survey.— DAN HACKETT, 3 Bryanstone Road, Crouch End, London N8 8TN (E-mail: Daniel@dhackett.fsnet.co.uk).

Early Red Admiral

An active Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* (L.) was seen on 26 February 2000 on Alderley Edge in Cheshire (grid reference SJ 8577), in bright sunshine. Considering the early date and that the butterfly was abundant on Alderley Edge during October 1999, this butterfly has very possibly over-wintered. A number of old, hollowed-out oaks line the sheltered sloping path along which it was seen and may well have provided it with an over-wintering site.— R. L. H. DENNIS, 4 Fairfax drive, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 6EY.

First Millennium butterflies?

My wife saw a Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* (L.) in central Exeter on 5 January 2000 which I thought was a good candidate for the first Millennium butterfly (on the same day, I also found eggs of the Brown Hairstreak butterfly on two new tetrads, at grid references SX 9698 and 9597). However, this has been eclipsed by my friend Colin White who saw a Peacock *Inachis io* (L.) on the beach at Seaton, Cornwall (SX 300542) at 12.15pm on 1 January 2000.

My last adult butterfly of the old millennium was a Red Admiral on 1 December. Brown Hairstreak eggs were found in three new tetrads on 16 December (unfortunately, the last opportunity that I had for searching for them in 1999).

Any challengers? - ROGER BRISTOW, Davidsland, Copplestone, Devon EX17 5NX.

Millennial moths

Curious to see which species would be my last of the old millennium, I put my trap out on New Year's Eve 1999 and was surprised in the morning to find in it a single specimen of Silver Y *Autograph gamma* (L.). I was even more surprised the following morning to find that my first species of the new millennium was Light Arches *Apamea lithoxylaea* (D. & S.), a moth I do not usually see until the end of May. Both moths were accompanied by several specimens of *Epiphyas postvittana* (Walk.) and *Udea ferrugalis* (Hb.), but I have come to expect to see those two species at any time of year.— P. D. M. COSTEN, La Broderie, La Claire Mare, St Peters, Guernsey GY7 9QA.